The idea of working on a thesis like this was suggested to me by Dr. S.H. Ritti, Professor and Head, Department of Ancient Indian History and Epigraphy, Karnataka University, Dharwar, when we were working on a volume of "Inscriptions from Nanded District." The volume was published by Yeshwant Mahavidyalaya, Nanded. While working on this volume, we were convinced that large number of inscriptions scattered throughout the Marathwada region when collected and studied, would bring to light many unknown facts pertaining to the history and culture of Marathwada. I took up the suggestion seriously and started surveying the area. The result was really rewarding. I am beholden to Dr. S.H. Ritti who admitted me as his research student and encouraged and helped me to give a concrete shape to the material I collected. Inevitably I had to suffer from one handicap and that is the knowledge of Kannada language which I did not have. Most of the inscriptions in Marathwada region which are very rich from the point of view of language and content, are in Kannada. Thanks to the constant help of Dr. S.H. Ritti and the ungrudging assistance of friends like Sri S.V. Padiger, Sri Shedaksharayya and Sri S.V.P. Halkatti, I could get over this handicap and was in position to understand the details of the inscriptions which I was to study.
As is well known, Marathwada, a part of the Deccan, passed through the rule of major dynasties like the Satavāhanas, the Chālukyas of Badami, the Rāṣṭrakūtās, the Chālukyas of Kalyāṇa and the Seũṇas and many facts about these dynasties are already known. It is my endeavour here to highlight mainly the new information that is obtained from the inscriptions which are mostly unpublished. In the recent times, Marathwada has attracted the attention of scholars who have worked on some aspects of history and culture of this Region. Dr.F.R.Deo, for example, has made a study of the temples of Marathwada. Dr.H.S.Thosar has made studies of the historical geography and ethnography of Marathwada. There is also a work by Dr.G.B.Deglurkar entitled 'Cultural History of Marathwada with special references to Old Monuments'. Taking these works into consideration, I have concentrated on the study of inscriptions and have tried to present the new material that is available, as systematically as possible. In my study, I have secured considerable help from the works of different scholars. Sri Brahmanand Deshpande, for example, has published a small volume in Marathi, bringing to light some Marathi inscriptions from Marathwada area. M/M V.V.Mirashi, Dr.V.B.Kotle and G.H.Khare and a few others have published
some inscriptions from Marathwada region in research journals. I have derived much benefit from these publications.

Not much need be said about the plan of the work. As pointed out above, I have tried to arrange in different headings the information that is culled out from these inscriptions. In the Appendix I, I have given the texts of some of the unpublished inscriptions which I have copied and utilized in the thesis. There are many other lengthy inscriptions which I have studied but due to the unsatisfactory condition of these inscriptions it was extremely difficult to prepare complete texts of these inscriptions. The summaries in Appendix II will help in knowing the contents of the inscriptions given in Appendix I.

The maps 1) showing the extent of the region under study, 2) the find-spots of the inscriptions which are studied and 3) showing the approximate location of the administrative divisions in the period under study, will, I hope, be of use.

It is always a pleasure to remember the gratitude, the help I have received from so many quarters in completing my present study.
Foremost, I should mention here Prof. G.R. Mhaisekar, M.P. and former Principal, Yeshwant Mahavidyalaya, Nanded, where I am working, who persuaded me to take up epigraphical studies. It was only because of his constant goading that I could take up the epigraphical survey of Nanded district, the result of which as stated above, is our 'Inscriptions from Nanded District'. It is no exaggeration to say that this work opened up a new vista in the epigraphical studies of the Marathwada Region. It has prompted a number of young scholars to take to the study of epigraphs in this region. With a deep sense of gratitude and respect, I record here my thanks to Prof. G.R. Mhaisekar who has always been a source of inspiration for me in all my work. I was fortunate in getting all the facilities in my work by the present Principal, Vardhacharyalu, to whom my sincere thanks are due.

As mentioned above, I was introduced to the field of epigraphical studies by Dr. S.H. Ritti and at his instance only I undertook this research project. His keen interest in me and the constant guidance and the encouragement that I have been receiving, have enabled me to complete this work successfully. I am deeply indebted to him for all the help and guidance I have received from him in my endeavour. I have been much benefited by Dr. Ritti's colleagues in the
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(G. C. Shelke)